

The Purpose of FCC's General Education Curriculum

General Education is that foundation of higher education curriculum providing a coherent intellectual experience for all students. The general education core is designed to introduce undergraduates to the fundamental knowledge, skills and values, which are essential to the study of academic disciplines, to the pursuit of life-long learning and to the development of educated members of the community and the world.

General Education Goals

Currently, FCC's general education curriculum supports the following goals.

- I. Students will demonstrate college-level communications skills.
- II. Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills.
- III. Students will analyze and interpret ways in which individuals, groups, institutions, or societies behave, function, and influence one another.
- IV. Students will demonstrate quantitative problem solving.
- V. Students will apply scientific reasoning.
- VI. Students will demonstrate an understanding of technology and its uses.
- VII. Students will demonstrate an understanding of and be able to interpret social and educational values.
- VIII. Students will be able to make informed critical responses to the arts and to the human values expressed in all art forms.
- IX. Students will evaluate personal wellness to make critically informed lifestyle choices reflecting an understanding of wellness.
- X. Students will demonstrate cultural competence.

Common Language of Critical Thinking:

FCC has adopted a common critical thinking language to be used and reinforced within and across courses in an effort to help student connect their learning to their development of critical thinking. We encourage faculty to incorporate this language as they develop and implement assignments engage and assessments that measure critical thinking. Students will:

- differentiate among facts, opinions, and inferences.
- analyze information from various sources.
- recognize and develop alternative perspectives or solutions.
- evaluate alternatives to make sound judgments.

Statement of Expectations for General Education Courses (2008):

Beyond the incorporation of specific core learning outcomes, general education courses will:

1. Include either
 - a. 1500 words of evaluated writing
 - b. At least two graded assignments in oral communication
 - c. Some combination of the two
2. Use the college-adopted common language of critical thinking in assignments
3. Employ strategies that promote student engagement such as
 - a. Original research projects
 - b. Co-curricular experiences
 - c. Integrate theory with practice
 - d. Employ active learning pedagogies
4. Promote interdisciplinary thinking
5. Focus on perspective-taking and introduce multiple perspectives